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Per 2 J C. STENNIS
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Senator Stennis Can Render Big Service As Head Of Cuban Probe

Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee, has announced that his group will begin as soon as possible a full investigation of reports he has received of a new and powerful Russian military buildup in Cuba.

The distinguished Mississippian's announcement casts doubt on President Kennedy's statement that there is no evidence of any offensive preparations in Cuba since the October crisis. Senator Stennis announced his intended probe shortly after a closed door meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Latin America.

Senators emerged from that rather mysterious session with conflicting reports as to what they had learned of the reported Cuban buildup from Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Director John A. McCone of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senator Stennis' announcement did not mention the controversy over whether the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invaders of Cuba were promised and then refused U. S. air support in April, 1961. It is expected, however, that this will be one of the subjects of the Stennis-led inquiry. He has said it will include Cuba's military strength, the kind of weapons in Cuba and the military threat posed by the Soviet occupation.

Mississippians and Americans generally

welcome the news that Senator Stennis is to conduct a full inquiry into the Cuban situation. He is the ideal leader for such a undertaking, being objective, impartial, courageous and determined to ascertain the complete truth.

Despite the Administration's tendency to discount and minimize the Cuban threat, many Americans are apprehensive. Our national security requires that both Congress and the public be given the full facts so that the wisdom of Administration policies can be analyzed thoroughly, in the open.

Though manipulation by the New Frontier oracles who formulate national policy cannot be permitted to become the guiding light for American public opinion. The American people have a direct stake in that policy and are capable of making the right decisions if they are given only the facts.

Our foreign policy could be headed for some disastrous turns if soothing syrup, pretty ribbon and whitewash continue to be Washington's answer to the plaintive plea of the American public for the truth.

Congress has a responsibility to give the Cuban situation a full airing. Again we say that there is no leader more qualified and competent to head such an inquiry than Mississippi's able John Stennis. We have every confidence that his investigation will hew to the line, without fear or favor, and let the chips fall where they may.